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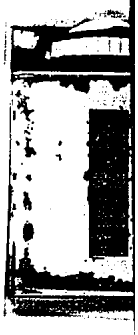

PLANS OF POLISH MACHINE-TRACTOR STATIONS FOR 1955

Mechanizacja Rolnictwa
Warsaw, Jan 55

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The MTS plan for 1955, the first since the Second Congress of the PZPR calls for increasing production in producer cooperatives. Although the tasks will be divided between the MTS and producer cooperatives, the MTS will be largely responsible for their fulfillment.

Livestock population is to be increased to 16 head of cattle, 29 hogs, and 15.3 sheep per 100 hectares. The first 500 breeding farms will be mechanized to facilitate the work of producer cooperatives and release manpower for other tasks.

The area under root crops, industrial crops, and fodder crops will be increased by partially limiting the area sown to grain. Emphasis in fodder crops will be on corn; the area sown to corn will be increased from several hundred hectares in 1954 to 20,000 in 1955.

Changes in crop structure will intensify agricultural production. Productivity of all meadows must be increased to full capacity by cultivation and the use of fine grass seed. All wastelands bordering producer cooperatives must be cultivated as a reserve for further expansion.

The plan provides for sowing 20,000 hectares of meadows to grass and the cultivation of 30,000 hectares of wasteland in producer cooperatives. Since these resources must be utilized to increase livestock production, MTS agronomists and zootechnicians must organize production in producer cooperatives.

In 1955, grain yields must exceed those of 1954 to make up for the reduction in the area sown.

In 1954, the MTS and producer cooperatives did not fully utilize available resources to obtain increases in yields. Only 956,487 hectares of the planned 1,359,799 hectares was treated with artificial fertilizer. Only 35,542 hectares of the planned 52,018 hectares was sown to grain by the checkrow method. Since the checkrow method increases yields by 1-3 metric quintals per hectare, over-all planned production was greatly reduced. The 1954 plan called for the spring harrowing of 1,584,411 hectares; only 1,376,577 hectares (86 percent of the plan) was actually harrowed. This was a joint operation by MTS and producer cooperative manpower and facilities. Much of this failure is due to the improper attitude of some MTS personnel, who still think that their basic task is to operate tractors and not to assist producer cooperatives to increase production. Since only 50 percent of the agricultural work is mechanized at present, MTS agronomists, to promote high yields, must devote as much time to producer cooperatives as they do to tractor brigades.

The reasons for nonfulfillment of the 1954 mechanization plan must be carefully scrutinized to determine how certain operations affected increases in yields. The plan and fulfillment for mechanization of certain operations follows: weeding, plan 23 percent, fulfillment 3.8 percent; hilling, plan 38 percent, fulfillment 10.2 percent; and mowing, plan 28 percent, fulfillment 19 percent. Furthermore, the MTS did not achieve the planned level in basic tasks, as shown by the following: spring plowing, plan 80 percent, fulfillment 74 percent; cultivating, plan 70 percent, fulfillment 63 percent; and potato planting,

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plan 45 percent, fulfillment 17.3 percent. Despite the nonfulfillment of plans, most producer cooperatives obtained increases in yields, proving that crop production can be increased if all available resources are used.

To achieve success, the winter season must be used for making a proper analysis of requirements and capabilities of all producer cooperatives as to proper distribution and utilization of manpower and resources. Yearly agreements between the MTS and the producer cooperatives should be signed on the basis of the requirements of the producer cooperatives. The agreements should be discussed by all concerned to obtain proper distribution of machines and to work out a yearly plan. The MTS agronomists must use all available time in training producer cooperatives in modern methods of land cultivation.

The 1955 plan calls for sowing 25 percent of the area sown by producer cooperatives by the checkrow method, increasing the area under potatoes by 1-2 percent over 1954, and planting 20 percent of the potato fields by the square cluster method. The entire area to be planted with root crops will be spread with manure in the spring or in the fall, and three or four row cultivations of potato fields will be made, including one weeding and two or three hilling operations.

All MTS agronomists must understand the importance of the various measures to be used to ensure maximum crop increases, and they must see that all producer cooperatives carry them out, with the aid of the MTS tractor park or their own draft power. The use of modern methods is a very important factor in fulfilling the production plan.

The degree of mechanization in producer cooperatives should be constantly increased by expanding mechanization of some operations and mechanizing other operations, with emphasis on mechanization of row cultivation.

The planned increase in livestock production will require a different distribution of resources. Many producer cooperatives are expected to shift to livestock breeding, which will reduce resources of manpower and draft power for field work. This will necessitate increased mechanization, resulting in increased crops.

To obtain this higher production, the MTS must increase productivity of tractors and other machines. The number of tractors will increase approximately 15 percent. The MTS will receive 1,350 Ursus tractors, 370 Zetors for row cultivation, 211 KD-35 tractors, 130 combines, 3,790 grain binders, 350 planters, and 1,600 diggers. On the other hand, the MTS tasks will increase 40 percent over 1954 achievements. This means that the productivity of every tractor must increase 27 percent over 1954: combines, 38 percent; binders, 28 percent; planters, 50 percent, and diggers of 50 percent. All machines must be properly utilized in order substantially to increase mechanization of field work in producer cooperatives.

The plan calls for the MTS to do 81 percent of the plowing, 72 percent of the cultivating, 35 percent of the grain sowing, 62 percent of the potato planting, 16 percent of the weeding and hilling, 83 percent of the plowing for winter crops, 87 percent of the winter plowing, 80 percent of the stubble plowing, and 76 percent of the mowing in producer cooperatives. Nevertheless, the MTS will still have a substantial production reserve in tractors and other machines to use on independent farms. In addition to the work in producer cooperatives, the MTS will do 800,000 hectares of medium plowing [for individual farmers?], which is about 33 percent more than in 1953 and 60 percent more than 1954.

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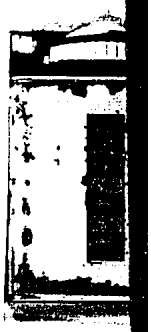

These tasks will require that MTS and producer cooperatives fully mobilize all resources, activate all reserves, and organize the work properly.

Nonfulfillment of the 1954 plan was largely due to improper distribution of MTS equipment. Zetor instead of Ursus tractors were allocated to areas with heavy soils; areas which had the Zetor 25K for row cultivation did not have the cultivating implements; and areas which had the cultivating implements did not have the tractors. Many MTS had 70-centimeter Soviet planters and 60-centimeter Polish diggers; electric motors were allocated to areas with no power. Some MTS did not have enough tractors to supply one for each producer cooperative in their jurisdiction and others had tractors standing idle.

MTS administrations did not appreciate the importance of proper distribution of equipment. For many years, distribution has been unorganized; machines went to those who were most insistent in asking for them; no other factors were considered. These mistakes must be corrected immediately.

The MTS has a new organizational problem, the organization of agrotechnic and zootechnic regions.

In former years, the organization of MTS operations was based mainly on tractor brigades as the lowest organizational unit. By 1954, it had already become impossible for many MTS to direct the work of the brigades, especially those MTS which serviced 50-60 producer cooperatives. The number of producer cooperatives serviced by one MTS is also increasing. This demands that MTS work be better organized to give producer cooperatives proper attention. In this situation, the regional agronomist who services three cooperatives, the regional mechanic who services three tractor brigades, and the political instructor who services six producer cooperatives have very important roles. Their work should be very carefully analyzed, and there must be a broad exchange of experience to develop the best form of work organization.

In 1954 the system of using the three MTS workers mentioned above to carry out work organization in producer cooperatives was tried. They reported on the economic and political situation of the producer cooperatives they serviced and received their orders from the MTS administration. The system did not always work out; the greatest difficulty was the fact that the tractor brigade was not tied in with the organization of the agronomic region, and there was no organizational connection between the area of the mechanic who serviced three brigades and the area serviced by the agronomist. The MTS management can easily remove these difficulties.

Many MTS directors still think that the quality of service will suffer if one agronomist services more than three producer cooperatives. Proper cooperation between the agronomist, the brigades, the regional mechanic, and instructors of political divisions will facilitate the work for the agronomist and even improve its quality, even if he services five smaller producer cooperatives instead of three large ones. This form of organization should be considered in 1955, especially by MTS which service many producer cooperatives.

The most important problem at present is to acquaint all MTS personnel with their tasks for 1955, and properly distribute MTS and producer cooperative resources. Plans must be worked out to the smallest detail so that every worker will clearly understand his task.

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